Production of titanium dioxide

285. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that the installed capacity of titanium dioxide in the country is 24000 tonnes per year, while the actual production is only 6500 tonnes per year in average against the requirement of around 20000 tonnes per year;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for such under utilization of the capacity despite high requirement; and

(c) whether efforts are being made to improve the capacity utilisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) The present annual installed capacity of titanium dioxide in the country is 46,500 tonnes. As against an estimated demand of 25,200 tonnes, during 1986-87, the production was of the order of 13,085 tonnes.

(b) The major constraint for under utilisation of capacity is the shortage of power and the power cuts imposed by the Government of Kerala.

(c) The Government of Kerala has been requested to exempt titanium dioxide units from power cuts imposed by the State Government and for supply of continuous power to them.

समुद्र जल से सौर ऊर्जा

286. श्रीमती वीणा वर्मा :
श्री कपिल वर्मा :

क्या ऊर्जा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या समुद्र जल से सौर-ऊर्जा के उत्पादन की कोई योजना सरकार के पास है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ?

ऊर्जा मंत्री (श्री वसन्त साठे) : (क) जी, नहीं । फिर भी समुद्र के तापमान के अन्तर से समुद्री ज्वार-भाटा और समुद्री लहरों से ऊर्जा उत्पादन संबंधी अनुसंधान और विकास कार्य चालू है ।

(ख) लागू नहीं होता ।

Curbing transmission losses

287. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Wil the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether on 15th January, 1987 at Power Ministers' Conference, the State Electricity Boards were told that they should bring down the transmission losses from alarmingly high 22 per cent to the permissible 6 per cent; and

(b) if so, what is the situation in each State and Union Territory in this regard and consequential annual losses there, in terms of rupees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, the State Electricity Boards were advised to bring down their transmission and distribution losses. The estimated percentage of transmission and distri-